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FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9131
INFO RUCNARF/ASEAN REGIONAL FORUM COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
RUEHGG/UN SECURITY COUNCIL PRIORITY
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY 2980
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY 2773

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 007004

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E.O. 12958: DECL: 12/14/2016

TAGS: PREL PHUM UNSC BM JA

SUBJECT: JAPAN NOT YET ON BOARD WITH UNSC RESOLUTION
AGAINST BURMA

REF: A. A) STATE 193458

¶B. B) USUN NEW YORK 02254

Classified By: Political Minister Counselor W. Michael Meserve for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

¶1. (C) The Ambassador raised the UNSC resolution on Burma (ref A) with Vice Foreign Minister Shotaro Yachi during a December 14 lunch meeting. Yachi said that Japan was pushing Burma to set a definite timetable for transfer of power to a civilian leadership, and had called in the Burmese Ambassador to deliver this message.

¶2. (C) Embassy Political Officer subsequently followed December 15 with United Nations Policy Division Principal Deputy Director Toshihiro Kitamura. Kitamura said that Japan has not yet made a decision on the UNSC resolution, denying the reports in ref B that Japan would oppose the resolution. Japan's biggest fear is pushing Burma closer to China, he said. Japan will give careful consideration to which way the Japanese Embassy in Beijing anticipates China will vote before deciding its own policy, Kitamura did admit, however, that "it would be very hard to oppose the resolution considering that it contains the same language that Japan has supported in the past."

SCHIEFFER